# SACRIFICE. HOW A CHRISTIAN SHOULD MAKE IT AND HOW CHRISTIANS SHOULD TAKE IT.

## Introduction.

I. Sacrifice defined.

1. Derivation. Sacer=sacred: Ficere=to make.
2. Definition.
    - a/ the offering of anything to God.
    - b/ Anything consecrated or offered to God as a religious thanksgiving, atonement, or conciliation.
    - 3/ Destruction or surrender of anything for the sake of something else; the giving up of some desireable object for the sake of a higher object.

II. Some common misconceptions of the term.

1. Many believe it to be essentially and merely a giving up. (Smith).
2. Many regard acts of tithing and charity as in themselves sacrifice.

III. Our need to understand aright the term "sacrifice."

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1. Essentially, the making sacred of God-give thing and ourselves by consecration.

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2. Acts of self-denial and of charity are not consecration in themselves, tho consecration results in the doing of such acts.

3. Consecration implies the putting of the sacrifice to the best definite use in the carrying out of God's will among men.

## A. Sacrifice-How a Christian should make it.

### I. How Mary made her sacrifice.

1. She was prepared.
   - a/ Tho poor, she had been saving her "mites which in time made up a large sum.
   - b/ If we take care of our talents, earmings and possessions, they will later on take care of us. Salvation Army mite box,

2. She recognized her unique opportunity.

3. She willed to make the most of her chance.
   - a/ her unselfish heart.
   - b/ she did'nt consider consequences.

4. Her will lost in God's enabled her to carry out her purpose.

### II. Mary's way, the Christian's way.

A whole-hearted, unselfish, and unimpelled offering prompted by love, in response to a recognized opportunity for service for which preparation is ever being made, and carried out in accordance with God's ~~wil~~ will should be the Christian's way of making sacrifice.

## B. Sacrifice-How Christians should take it.

### I. How Judas and the deciples took it.

1. The selfishness and hypocricy of Judas.

2. The other disciples, tho sincere and honest, passed judgment from their own limited standpoint, according to the letter of the training they had received from the Master.
   Picking up the crumbs, the simple way of living. Always helping the needy.

## II. How Christ accepted it.

1. Christ rises above the customary viewpoint in recognitiom of the special occasion.
    - a/ Christ is not merely a man of principle but a man of the Spirit transcending principle.
    - b/ Christ does not let the principles of right living have absolute control of Him, but rather makes them to become useful servants in His right-living with God.
2. Christ accepts the offering graciously and as wholeheartedly as it is given.
    - a/ The good that man refuses to recognize God chooses to utilize.
    - b/ The best of Christian men may call a Christian's best effort a waste, but God never does.

## III. Christians should take it as Christ did.

1. Let us become master of our philosophy and creed, religious faith and principles of right living, only letting them serve us in our holy living with God.

    Read ~~Holmes's~~ Lowell's "Dara".

2. Let us not refuse to recognize the good th that is in other men and the good that other men do.

    In men whom men condemn as ill

3. Let us be careful, lest by any expression of disapproval we discourage fellow-Xns in their sacrificial living and doing.

# Conclusion.

A christian's alabaster box is a pure heart filled with the love of God. Carrying the heart broken and bleeding in his hand, he pours upon his fellows in need the precious nard of Christ-sympathy and appreciation, filling them with aromatic and balsam life.

1. Are you making the things within and about sacred?
2. Are you and all you possess made sacred before God?
3. Are you denying yourself the baser things of life that you may live the hobler ones? Are you giving up the less desireable for the better and lasting things of the Christ-life?

If you are, then you are a living ascrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is your spiritual service.

May it be possible for others to say of us, as was said of the poor woman who contributed her mite--that is her all--"She hath done what she could."